

**Washington, D.C.** - Rep. Brad Miller (NC-13) returned to Washington today after visiting with U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

News of the trip, which began January 8, was strictly embargoed until the Congressman and other members of the congressional delegation reached Kuwait earlier yesterday. This is Rep. Miller's third trip to Iraq.

"I met with a number of soldiers from North Carolina deployed in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Whatever our views on the wisdom of our nation's policy in Iraq, our men and women in uniform have served admirably there and deserve our thanks for their service," Miller said. "They are good at what they do." Miller says improved equipment and technology was noticeable in both Iraq and Afghanistan for U.S. forces. Military vehicles have been redesigned to deflect some of the force of roadside bombs, for instance. Congressman Miller met North Carolina soldiers from Henderson, Smithfield, Apex, Morganton, Charlotte and Fayetteville. "There is no doubt that repeated deployments are taking a toll on military families."

The Congressman also met with Gen. David Petraeus, Commander, Multi-National Forces Iraq and Ryan Crocker, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq.